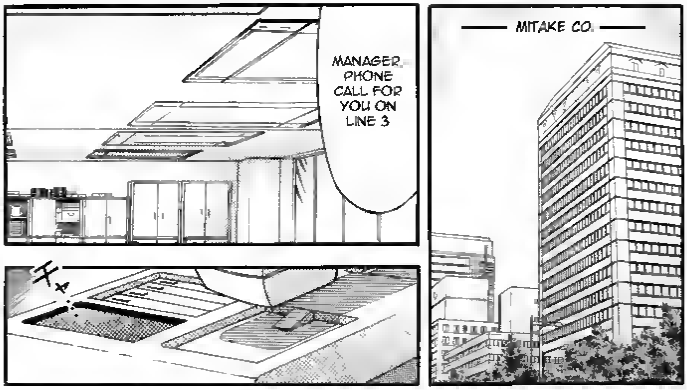
THORN IN THE SIDE (PART 1)



Glass81
THORN IN THE SIDE (PART 1)

HAYASE, ARE YOU FREE TONIGHT?
NO WORK AS USUAL
THERE'S AN 8PM MEETING AT AKASAKA TONIGHT, CLEAR YOUR SCHEDULE
OKAY
THE CEO AND A SENIOR WILL ALSO BE THERE BE PREPARED
!?
TURNING POINTS ARE ALWAYS SUDDEN, WHETHER FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

AKA-SAKA

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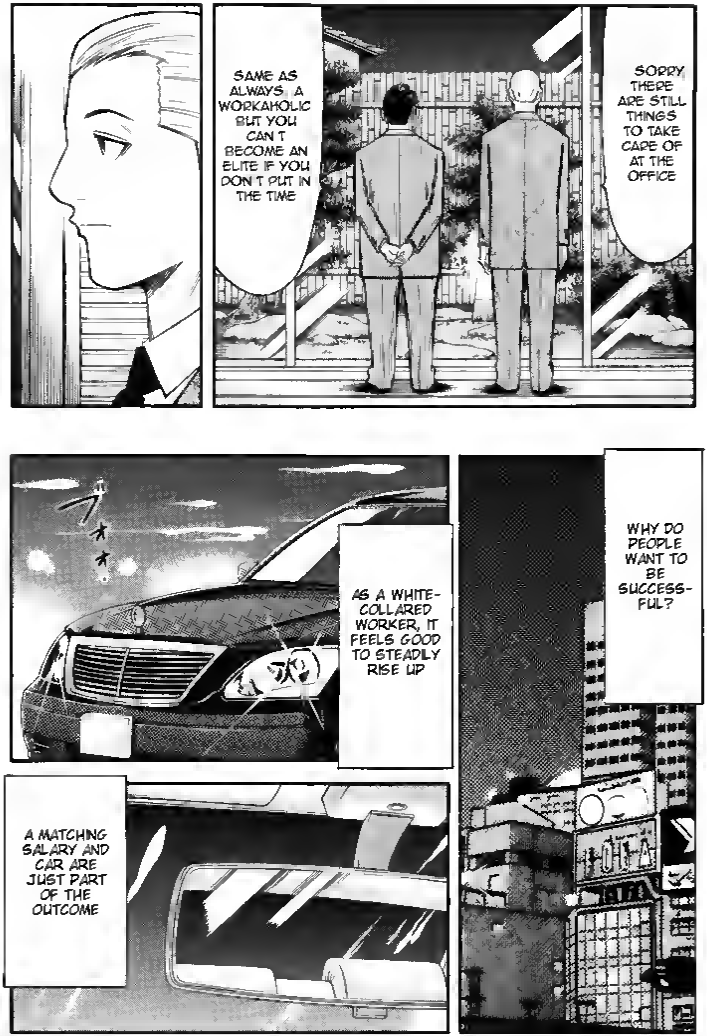
ア
HAYASE HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS COMPANY?
IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS
THANK YOU CEO
I'VE BEEN TO PARIS, LONDON AND NEW YORK ABOUT 4 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TOTAL
HAVE YOU HAD ANY EXPERIENCE WORKING ABROAD?

HE'S TRUSTED BY HIS SUB-ORDINATES BUT SOMETIMES HE'S TOO EASY ON THEM
WHILE HE WAS IN AMERICA, SALES WENT UP BY 150% IN A SINGLE YEAR, AND 3 MORE STORES OPENED
I WANT TO MOVE HIM BACK HERE AND HAVE HIM LEARN FROM ME... WILL YOU TAKE HIS PLACE?
THIS IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED INTERNALLY, I ASSUME. YOU KNOW SASAKI, PRESIDENT OF OUR NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH
MAY I ASK I'M HERE TODAY BECAUSE
WHEN YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN IN 5 YEARS, YOU'LL BE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR SOMEONE IN THEIR EARLY 40'S TO BECOME PRESIDENT, THIS IS A FIRST
TAKE HIS PLACE ... MEANING AS PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH?

AS YOU KNOW, EVERY LEADER OF THIS COMPANY HAS BEEN ON THE BOARD AT SOME POINT
SHIT ...
HEH HEH. IF ALL GOES WELL, YOU WILL ALSO ...
LEADER ...
... CEO!
WANT TO GET ANOTHER DRINK?


SAME AS ALWAYS. A WORKAHOLIC BUT YOU CAN'T BECOME AN ELITE IF YOU DON'T PUT IN THE TIME
SORRY, THERE ARE STILL THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF AT THE OFFICE
ブォォ
AS A WHITE-COLLARED WORKER, IT FEELS GOOD TO STEADILY RISE UP
WHY DO PEOPLE WANT TO BE SUCCESS-FUL?
A MATCHING SALARY AND CAR ARE JUST PART OF THE OUTCOME

SO WHAT'S THE REAL REASON THAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL

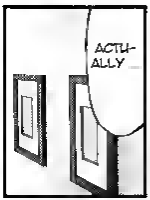
HEAD TO SHIODOME'S HOTEL CARDINAL

AH
SIR, BACK TO THE OFFICE?

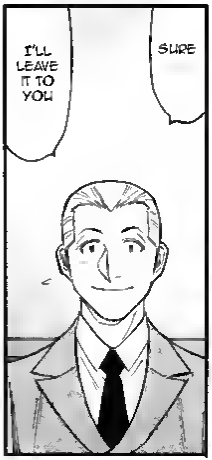
NO

EH...
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY

HOTEL CARDINAL


ACTU-ALLY...

YES... THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT


I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU
SURE

IS IT OKAY IF I USE GIN AS THE BASE?
THEN... ALLOW ME TO CONGRA-TULATE YOU WITH A DRINK

THEN ADD ORANGE-FLAVORED BRANDY 15 ML LEMON JUICE 1 DASH
FIRST, ADD DRY GIN 45 ML
シャカ
シャカ
SHAKE
ENJOY
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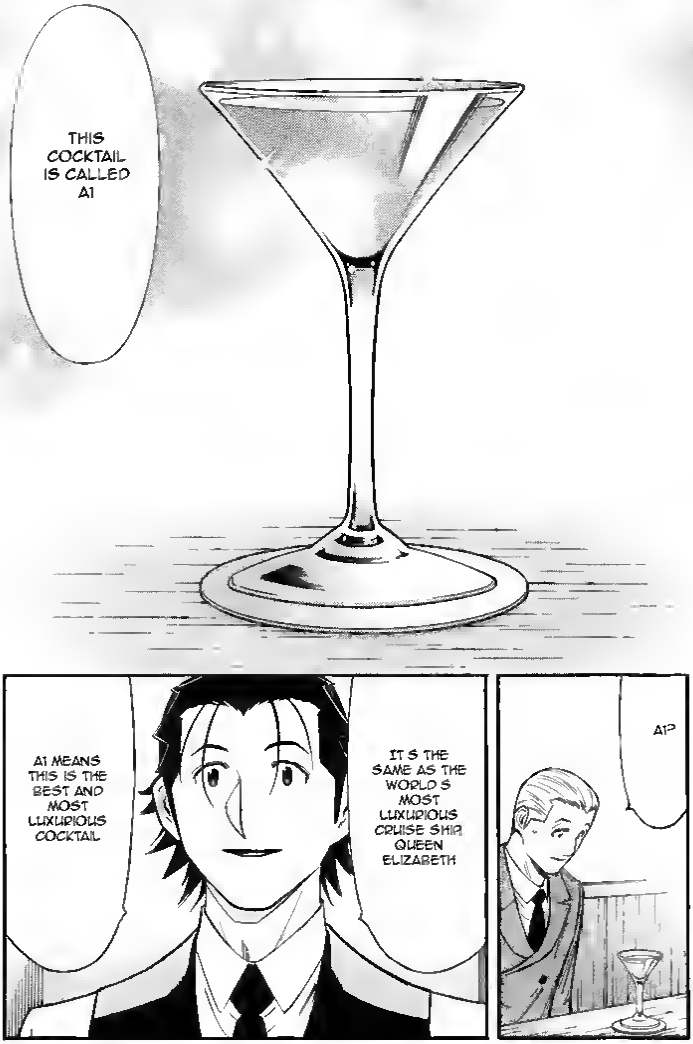
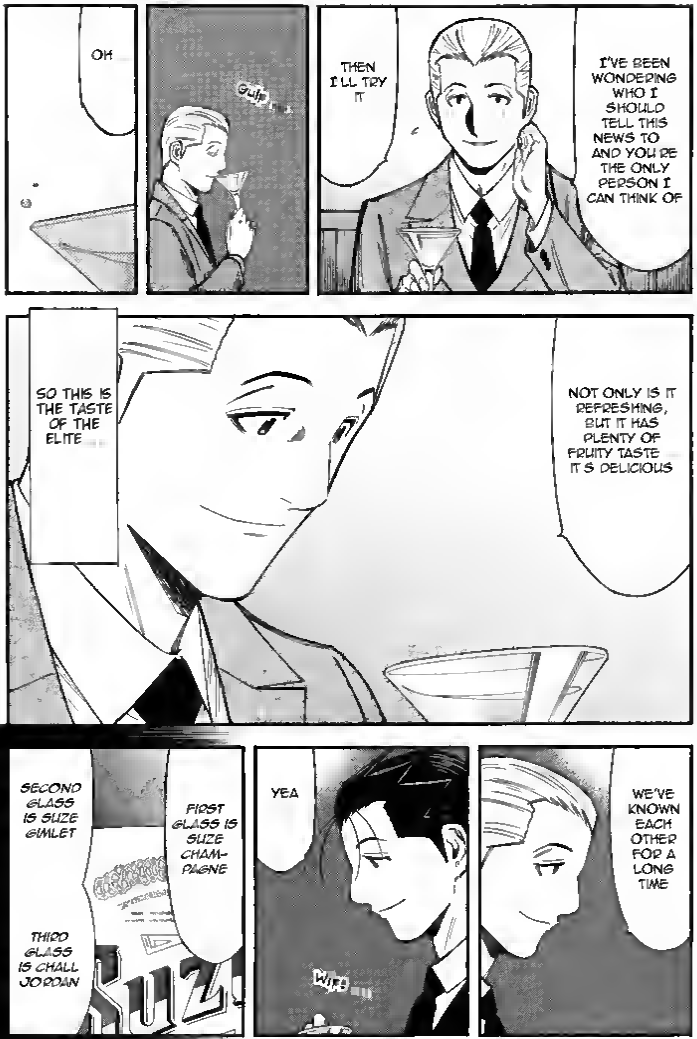
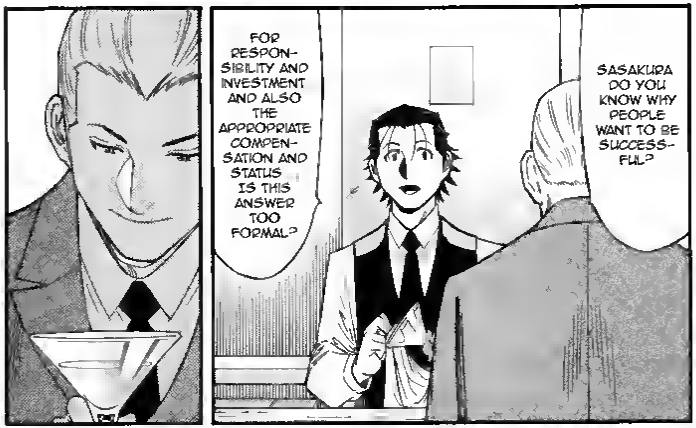
FINALLY SQUEEZE THE LEMON PEEL
Splash ...


THIS COCKTAIL IS CALLED A1
A1 MEANS THIS IS THE BEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS COCKTAIL
IT'S THE SAME AS THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS CRUISE SHIP QUEEN ELIZABETH
A1?

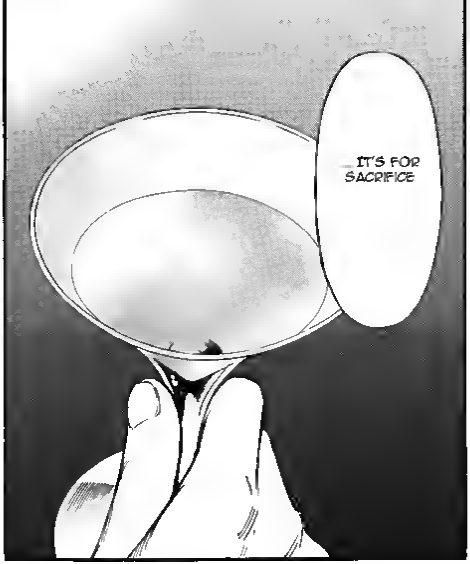
?
ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHO CAME UP WITH THIS NAME, BUT THAT BARTENDER MUST BE VERY SMART
I SEE
A
A1
ABERDEEN ANGUS
ACACIA
ACAPULCO
ADDINGTON
ADMIRAL
ADONIS
IN AN ALPHABETICALLY ORDERED COCKTAIL LIST IT WILL ALWAYS BE LISTED AT THE TOP
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION HAYASE-SAN
ACT ACTUALLY IT'S NOT OFFICIAL YET
BUT THANK YOU


OH...
Gulp...
THEN I'LL TRY IT
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHO I SHOULD TELL THIS NEWS TO AND YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN THINK OF
SO THIS IS THE TASTE OF THE ELITE...
NOT ONLY IS IT REFRESHING, BUT IT HAS PLENTY OF FRUITY TASTE IT'S DELICIOUS
SECOND GLASS IS SUZE GIMLET
FIRST GLASS IS SUZE CHAMPAGNE
THIRD GLASS IS CHALL JORDAN
SUZE
YEA
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME

HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
YES, ONCE
1996, JUNE, PARIS, LOTS HOTEL
I WENT TO THE LOTS HOTEL BAR WHERE I WAS STAYING IN PARIS EIGHT YEARS AGO
YOU CAN REMEMBER A CUSTOMER'S NAME AND ORDER AFTER MEETING THEM ONLY ONCE

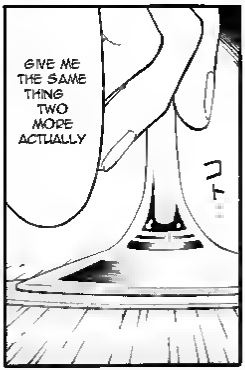

SASAKURA DO YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL?
FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND INVESTMENT AND ALSO THE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION AND STATUS IS THIS ANSWER TOO FORMAL?

SACRI-
FICE?


IT'S FOR
SACRIFICE

Gulp ...

YES
TWO
MORE
DO YOU
WANT THEM
AT THE
SAME
TIME?


GIVE ME
THE SAME
THING
TWO
MORE
ACTUALLY
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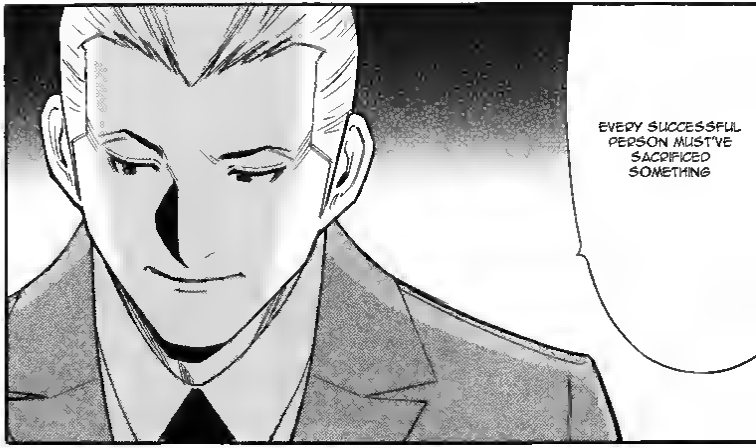
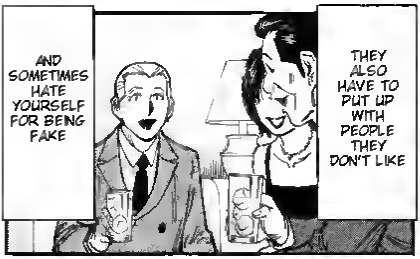
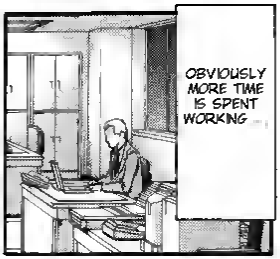

EVERY SUCCESSFUL PERSON MUST'VE SACRIFICED SOMETHING

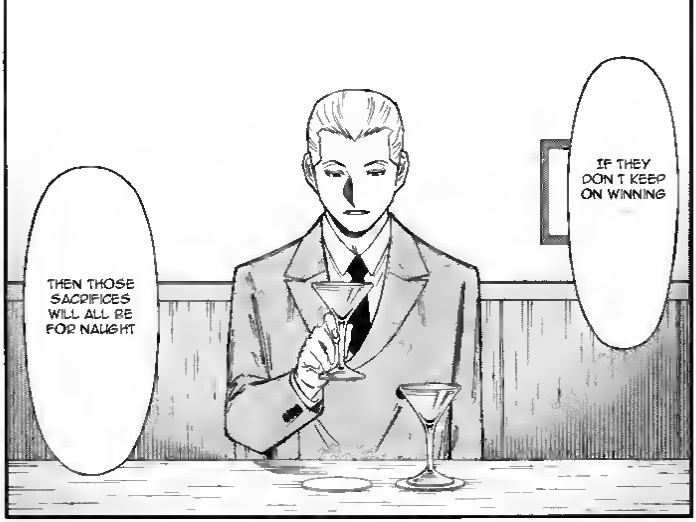

AND SOMETIMES HATE YOURSELF FOR BEING FAKE
THEY ALSO HAVE TO PUT UP WITH PEOPLE THEY DON'T LIKE

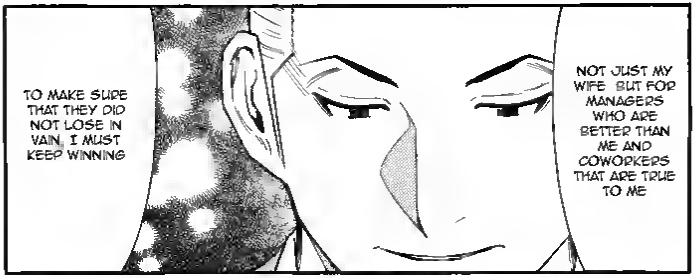

OBVIOUSLY MORE TIME IS SPENT WORKING

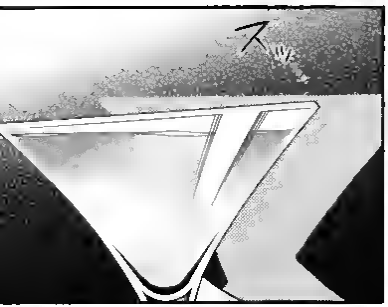
ENJOY
SOME GET CAUGHT UP IN COMPANY POLITICS AND END UP LEAVING
SOME PEOPLE EVEN RUIN THEIR HEALTH FROM WORKING TOO MUCH

I GUESS IT'S FAMILY
HAYASE-SAN WHAT DID YOU SACRIFICE?
MY LATE WIFE HER HEART WASN'T SO WELL
AFTER SHE FELL ILL AT HOME, SHE USED HER LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH TO CALL THE AMBULANCE
BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE HOME...
I WAS IN NEW YORK AT THE TIME
Clench ...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN MY WIFE WAS ON THE AMBULANCE?

I WAS AT THE MALL, PICKING OUT A BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR MY CLIENT'S WIFE
IT HAPPENED BEFORE I CAN GET BACK...
THEN... MY WIFE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL
BECAUSE IF THEY STOP...
WHY DO PEOPLE WORK SO HARD TO MOVE UP...


IF THEY DON'T KEEP ON WINNING
THEN THOSE SACRIFICES WILL ALL BE FOR NAUGHT


NOT JUST MY WIFE BUT FOR MANAGERS WHO ARE BETTER THAN ME AND COWORKERS THAT ARE TRUE TO ME
TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DID NOT LOSE IN VAIN, I MUST KEEP WINNING



KIMIKO, THIS IS AN ELITE COCKTAIL... AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU
SORRY I BROUGHT UP MY GLOOMY PAST
BUT IT'S INCRE-DIBLE...
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THIS

MAYBE IT'S DESTINY THAT PEOPLE CANNOT RID THEMSELVES OF REGRET
ALTHOUGH IT'S STUPID, BUT IN THE END
I'M HONORED THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO CONFIDE THIS WITH ME
DON'T SAY THAT
LIKE A THORN IN THE SIDE
ガチャ
OKAY I'LL BE GOING THANKS
ガタ

THORN IN THE SIDE
CAN'T GET RID OF REGRET...?
コ
KYOUKO, YOU BETTER WATCH YOUR DIET OR ELSE YOU'LL BECOME AN OLD HAG!
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING!

……！
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KIMI KIMIJIMA-SAN!?
？
HAYASE-SAN
YOU

SO YOU'RE BACK IN TOKYO
OLD GEEZER THAT DITCHED ME!
THAT'S RIGHT... TURNING POINTS ARE ALWAYS SUDDEN

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